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Towards global partnerships

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Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdulmalik **Alshabibi** (Yemen)

I. Introduction

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 13 September 2005, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Towards global partnerships" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 31st, 32nd and 37th meetings, on 16 and 23 November and 15 December 2005. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/60/SR.31, 32 and 37). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 7th meetings, from 3 to 5 October (see A/C.2/60/SR.2-7).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector (A/60/214);

(b) Letter dated 5 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the Secretary-General (A/60/111).

4. At the 31st meeting, on 16 November, the Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact Office made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/60/SR.31).

5. At the same meeting, the Chairman posed a question to which the Executive Director responded (see A/C.2/60/SR.31).

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II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/60/L.38 and A/C.2/60/L.38/Rev.1

6. At the 32nd meeting, on 23 November 2005, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Tuvalu and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Towards global partnerships" (A/C.2/60/L.38). Subsequently, Afghanistan and El Salvador joined in sponsoring the draft resolution which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 55/215 of 21 December 2000, 56/76 of 11 December 2001 and 58/129 of 19 December 2003,

"*Reaffirming its resolve* to create an environment, at the national and global levels alike, that is conducive to sustainable development and the elimination of poverty,

"*Recalling* the objectives formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, notably in the Millennium Development Goals, and the reaffirmation they have received in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, particularly in regard to developing partnerships through the provision of greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general so as to enable them to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty,

"*Underlining* the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, can further the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and make concrete contributions to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and the other goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews, in particular in the area of development and the eradication of poverty, and shall be undertaken in a manner that maintains the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

"*Recalling*, in this context, the guidelines on cooperation between the United Nations and the business community, and taking note of the appointment by the Secretary-General of a Special Representative, pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/69 of 20 April 2005,

"*Also recalling* that the International Conference on Financing for Development welcomed all efforts to encourage good corporate citizenship, and welcoming the initiative by the Financing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in response to General Assembly resolution 58/230 of 23 December 2003, to hold a series of

multi-stakeholder consultations on development finance issues, whose findings were presented at the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development held in New York on 27 and 28 June 2005,

"*Taking note* of the following reports:

"(a) *Building on the Monterrey Consensus: The Growing Role of Public-Private Partnerships in Mobilizing Resources for Development*, presented to the United Nations High-level Plenary Meeting on Financing for Development, held in New York on 14 September 2005, by the Global Institute for Partnership and Governance of the World Economic Forum, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the United Nations and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation,

"(b) *A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All*, published by the International Labour Organization and presented at United Nations Headquarters on 20 September 2004 by the Presidents of Finland and the United Republic of Tanzania, the co-chairs of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization established by the International Labour Organization,

"(c) *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor* presented to the Secretary-General by the Commission on the Private Sector and Development, convened by the Secretary-General,

"*Emphasizing* that all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, can contribute in several ways to addressing the obstacles confronted by developing countries in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable development and to the realization of the development goals of the United Nations through, inter alia, financial resources, access to technology, management expertise, and support for programmes, including through the reduced pricing of drugs, where appropriate, for the prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other diseases,

"*Encouraging* the private sector to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial, but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings and, in general, towards accepting and implementing the principle of good corporate citizenship, that is, bringing social values and responsibilities to bear on a conduct and policy premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations,

"*Noting* that the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development is continuing its efforts to promote partnerships for sustainable development, inter alia, through the establishment of an interactive online database, the preparation of a report on partnerships for sustainable development to the Commission's twelfth session in 2004, the holding of a partnership fair at its thirteenth session in 2005 and prospectively at its fourteenth session in 2006, in line with the determination by the Economic and Social Council that partnerships for sustainable development, as voluntary multi-stakeholder initiatives, contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'),

"*Taking note* of the progress achieved in United Nations partnerships, notably in the framework of the Global Compact, the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, the regional economic commissions and various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds and programmes, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, and welcoming the establishment of a multitude of partnerships at the field level, entered into by various United Nations agencies, non-public partners and Member States, such as the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development and the Growing Sustainable Business initiative, initiated by the Global Compact and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector;

"2. *Stresses* that partnerships are voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits;

"3. *Notes* that such partnerships can aim at the promotion of vital developmental issues, including the Millennium Development Goals, at the development of common standards, norms, shared values and ethical behaviour that facilitate market transactions and promote United Nations goals, at the sharing and coordination of resources and expertise necessary to address development and humanitarian needs and at the harnessing of markets to interact, in a fair and socially responsible manner, with other markets;

"4. *Recalls* that the 2005 World Summit welcomed the positive contributions of the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the promotion and implementation of development and human rights programmes and also welcomed the dialogue between these organizations and Member States, as reflected in the first informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector;

"5. *Also recalls* that the 2005 World Summit resolved to enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development, and encouraged public-private partnerships in the following areas: the generation of new investments and employment; financing for development; addressing the challenges to health through treatment and research; and the promotion of science and technology for development in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

"6. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to develop a common and systemic approach to partnership, which places greater emphasis on impact, accountability and sustainability, without imposing undue rigidity

in partnership agreements, and with due consideration being given to the partnership principles set out in its resolution 58/129;

"7. *Also encourages* responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the Global Compact;

"8. *Stresses* the importance of good corporate governance and corporate social responsibility, and encourages the Global Compact Office to continue to foster responsible business practices and to promote the sharing of best practices and positive action through learning, dialogue and partnerships;

"9. *Encourages* the Global Compact Office to ensure that relevant lessons learned from partnerships, including with the business community, contribute to ongoing United Nations reform efforts;

"10. *Welcomes* the appointment by the Secretary-General of a Special Adviser for the Global Compact;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take further appropriate action to consolidate partnerships by enhancing their impact assessment, strategic focus and local ownership, as well as by enhancing partnership management through adequate training at all concerned levels, the sharing of best practices, the streamlining of United Nations guidelines for partnerships and the improvement of the partner selection processes;

"12. *Welcomes* the innovative approaches by relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, to use partnerships as a means to better implement their goals and programmes, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty, and encourages them to further explore such possibilities, bearing in mind their different mandates, modes of operation and objectives, as well as the particular roles of the non-public partners involved;

"13. *Recommends*, in this context, that partnerships should also foster the elimination of discrimination, including on gender grounds, in respect of employment and occupation;

"14. *Reiterates its call upon*:

"(a) All bodies within the United Nations system that engage in partnerships to ensure the integrity and independence of the Organization and to include information on partnerships in their regular reporting, as appropriate, on their websites and through other means;

"(b) Partners to provide to and exchange relevant information with Governments, other stakeholders and the relevant United Nations agencies and bodies and other international organizations with which they engage, in an appropriate way, including through reports, with particular attention to the importance of sharing among partnerships information on their practical experience;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution."

7. At the 37th meeting, on 15 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Towards global partnerships" (A/C.2/60/L.38/Rev.1),

submitted by Germany on behalf of Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Albania, Angola, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, the Congo, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Japan, Madagascar, Mali, the Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

8. At the same meeting, the Secretary read out a statement of programme budget implications (see A/C.2/60/SR.37).

9. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Brazil, as facilitator, orally corrected the text of the draft resolution.

10. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Spain (see A/C.2/60/SR.37).

11. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.38/Rev.1, as orally corrected (see para. 13).

12. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representative of the United States of America and Jamaica (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) (see A/C.2/60/SR.37).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

13. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Towards global partnerships

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/215 of 21 December 2000, 56/76 of 11 December 2001 and 58/129 of 19 December 2003,

Reaffirming the vital role of the United Nations, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in the promotion of partnerships in the context of globalization,

Underlining the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations, and recalling the central role and responsibility of Governments in national and international policymaking,

Reaffirming its resolve to create an environment, at the national and global levels alike, that is conducive to sustainable development and the elimination of poverty,

Recalling the objectives formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] notably the Millennium Development Goals, and the reaffirmation they have received in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] particularly in regard to developing partnerships through the provision of greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general so as to enable them to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty,

Underlining the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, including the private sector, shall serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and can make concrete contributions to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and the other goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews, in particular in the area of development and the eradication of poverty, and shall be undertaken in a manner that maintains the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

Underlining also the importance of the contribution of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general to the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Welcoming in this regard the participation of civil society and private-sector entities in the multi-stakeholder consultations on development finance issues, whose findings were presented at the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development held in New York on 27 and 28 June 2005,

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

Emphasizing that all relevant partners, including the private sector, can contribute in several ways to addressing the obstacles confronted by developing countries in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable development and to the realization of the development goals of the United Nations through, inter alia, financial resources, access to technology, management expertise and support for programmes, including through the reduced pricing of drugs, where appropriate, for the prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other diseases,

Welcoming the efforts and encouraging further efforts by all relevant partners, including the private sector, to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial, but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings and, in general, towards accepting and implementing the principle of good corporate citizenship, that is, bringing social values and responsibilities to bear on a conduct and policy premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations,

Noting that, in line with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003, the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development is continuing its efforts to promote partnerships for sustainable development, inter alia, through the establishment of an interactive online database, the preparation of a report on partnerships for sustainable development to the Commission's twelfth session, in 2004, the holding of a partnership fair at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions, in 2004 and 2005, respectively, and prospectively at its fourteenth session, in 2006, in line with the determination by the Council that partnerships for sustainable development, as voluntary multi-stakeholder initiatives, contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21[3] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[4]

Welcoming the implementation and expansion of the database of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its increasing use as a platform to provide access to information on partnerships and facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices,

Taking note of the progress achieved in the work of the United Nations on partnerships, notably in the framework of various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces, commissions and initiatives, such as the Global Compact, launched by the Secretary-General, the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, and welcoming the establishment of a multitude of partnerships at the field level, entered into by various United Nations agencies, non-public partners and Member States, such as the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development,

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[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector;[5]

2. *Stresses* that partnerships are voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits;

3. *Also stresses* the importance of the contribution of voluntary partnerships to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, while reiterating that they are a complement to, but not intended to substitute for, the commitments made by Governments with a view to achieving these goals;

4. *Further stresses* that partnerships should be consistent with national laws and national development strategies and plans, as well as the priorities of countries where their implementation takes place, bearing in mind the relevant guidance provided by Governments;

5. *Recalls* that the 2005 World Summit welcomed the positive contributions of the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the promotion and implementation of development and human rights programmes and also welcomed the dialogue between these organizations and Member States, as reflected in the first informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector;

6. *Also recalls* that the 2005 World Summit resolved to enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development, and encouraged public-private partnerships in the following areas: the generation of new investments and employment, financing for development, health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to develop, for those partnerships in which it participates, a common and systemic approach which places greater emphasis on impact, transparency, accountability and sustainability, without imposing undue rigidity in partnership agreements, and with due consideration being given to the following partnership principles: common purpose, transparency, bestowing no unfair advantages upon any partner of the United Nations, mutual benefit and mutual respect, accountability, respect for the modalities of the United Nations, striving for balanced representation of relevant partners from developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, sectoral and geographic balance, and not compromising the independence and neutrality of the United Nations system in general and the agencies in particular;

8. *Also encourages* responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the Global Compact;

[5] A/60/214.

9. *Encourages* the Global Compact Office to promote the sharing of best practices and positive action through learning, dialogue and partnerships;

10. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations organizations and agencies, as well as the Global Compact Office, to share relevant lessons learned and positive experiences from partnerships, including with the business community, as a contribution to the development of more effective United Nations partnerships;

11. *Takes note with appreciation* of the appointment by the Secretary-General of a Special Adviser for the Global Compact;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take further appropriate action to enhance partnership management through the promotion of adequate training at all concerned levels; institutional capacity in country offices; strategic focus and local ownership; the sharing of best practices; the improvement of partner selection processes; and the streamlining of United Nations guidelines for partnerships between the United Nations and all relevant partners, including the private sector, and further requests the Secretary-General to report on these actions in the context of his report under the agenda item entitled "Towards global partnerships";

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to promote, within existing resources, impact-assessment mechanisms, taking into account best tools available, in order to enable effective management, ensure accountability and facilitate effective learning from both successes and failures;

14. *Welcomes* innovative approaches to use partnerships as a means to better implement goals and programmes, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty, and encourages relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization to further explore such possibilities, bearing in mind their different mandates, modes of operation and objectives, as well as the particular roles of the non-public partners involved;

15. *Recommends*, in this context, that partnerships should also foster the elimination of all forms of discrimination, including on gender grounds, in respect of employment and occupation;

16. *Reiterates its call upon*:

(a) All bodies within the United Nations system that engage in partnerships to ensure the integrity and independence of the Organization and to include information on partnerships in their regular reporting, as appropriate, on their web..tes and through other means;

(b) Partners to provide to and exchange relevant information with Governments, other stakeholders and the relevant United Nations agencies and bodies and other international organizations with which they engage, in an appropriate way, including through reports, with particular attention to the importance of sharing among partnerships information on their practical experience;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.